Sandpoint Island Provincial Park Interim Management Statement

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Ontario
Ministry of Natural Resources
Hon. Vincent G. Kerrio
Minister
Mary Mogford
Deputy Minister

Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Ontario

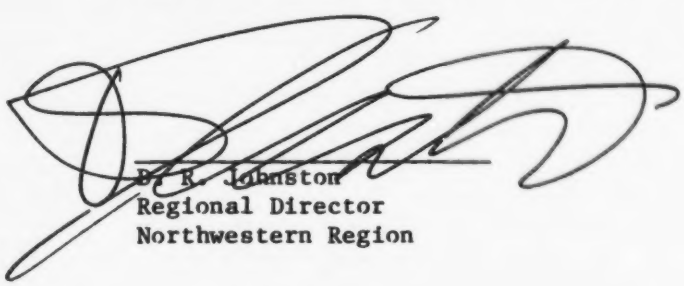
January, 1986

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL STATEMENT

This Interim Management Statement will provide interim direction for the management of the Sandpoint Island Provincial Park until a comprehensive Park Management Plan is prepared.

This statement will provide the basis for the subsequent preparation of the Park Management Plan.

I am pleased to approve this Interim Management Statement for the Sandpoint Island Provincial Park.



D. R. Johnston
Regional Director
Northwestern Region

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Interim Management Statement is to identify:

i) park values which are to be protected;

ii) resource management prescriptions necessary to protect these values; and

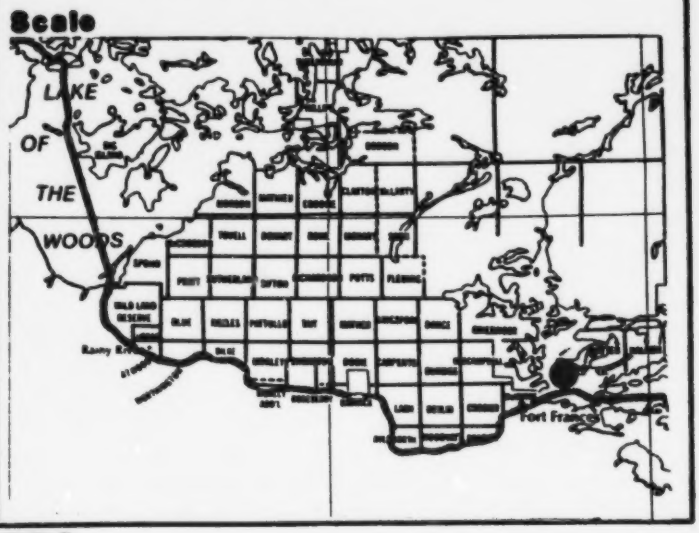
iii) restrictions on use of natural resources within the park.

This Interim Management Statement is not intended to replace a Park Management Plan. Rather it is intended to guide the use of natural resources and related activities within the park until such a time as a Park Management Plan is prepared.

The guidelines that have been developed are based on information contained in the Fort Frances District Land Use Guidelines.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

NAME: Sandpoint Island Provincial Park	**REGIONAL SETTING MAP**
PROPOSED CLASS: Natural Environment	
M.N.R. DISTRICT: Fort Frances	
M.N.R. REGION: Northwestern	
TOTAL AREA(ha): 900 ha. **LAND:** **WATER:**	
SITE REGION: 5S-Lake of the Woods	
SITE DISTRICT: 5S-1	
DATE in REGULATION: 1985.10.03	



TARGETS

1 LIFE SCIENCE REPRESENTATION

site type/landscape unit	species/communities
Landscape Unit 28 - Manitou/Kenora Drift Complex	- gently to moderately broken terrain with bare to thinly mantled bedrock knolls and intervening lowland swamps

2 EARTH SCIENCE REPRESENTATION

geological theme	feature
Late Archean Tectonic North Bay Interstadial Algonquin Stadial	- basic and acid volcanic rocks - thin, stony sand till - raised strandlines, tombolo bar

3 CULTURAL RESOURCE REPRESENTATION

theme	theme segment
Unknown	Unknown

4 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

day use	car camping	wilderness/back country
Nil	Nil	Nil

INVENTORIES

level / type	earth science	life science	cultural	recreational	other
reconnaissance completion date	1977	1977	1979	1980	
detailed completion date					
required?	yes	yes	yes	yes	

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

I LAND TENURE

There are two properties within the park (P. 613 and P. 614) that are presently listed as patented lands. Both of these parcels were acquired from a private citizen during October, 1975 and are presently registered to her Majesty the Queen in the right of the Province of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Government Services.

A 66 foot shoreline reserve (surface rights only) exists on patent mining locations K-194 and K-195.

Guidelines

The Ministry of Natural Resource will request the Ministry of Government Services to prepare an Order in Council to transfer the administration and control of parcels P-613 and P-614 to the Minister of Natural Resources such that an application can be filed to have the parcel registers closed out.

The 66 foot reserve shoreline reserve on patent parcels K-194 and K-195 will remain in its present form.

Requests for any additional forms of land tenure will not be considered.

II LAND ACQUISITION/DISPOSITION

Two patented properties (K-194 and K-195) including a 66 foot shoreline reserve fronting them exist on Sandpoint Island and are presently excluded from within the park.

Guidelines

The Ministry of Natural Resources will not actively seek to acquire additional patented properties pending the completion of the park management plan. The Ministry will however, enter into negotiations with the above landowners should they express an interest in disposing of these properties.

No further disposition of Crown-owned lands will be considered pending the completion of the park management plan.

III EXISTING/PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

There are no existing facilities or developments within the park.

Guideline

Proposals for park development will not be considered pending the completion of the park management plan. The park has outstanding potential to provide day use and camping opportunities on a water access basis.

IV RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Recreational activities that presently occur within the park include sport fishing and hunting, and day use and camping on a water access basis.

Guideline

The above recreational activities will be permitted to continue and will be further addressed within the park management plan.

V COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

A portion of one trapline is included within the park boundary.

Guidelines

Trapping on the existing trapline will be permitted to continue within the park area. Proposals for trapline cabins will not be considered.

Mineral exploration/extraction will be permitted to continue as per the Fort Frances District Land Use Guidelines. This activity will only be authorized by the issuance of an Exploratory Licence of Occupation under Section 190 of the Mining Act.

VI NATIVE INTERESTS

There are no known Native interests within the park area.

VII NATURAL RESOURCES

A number of natural resource values have been identified to date through the earth and life science reconnaissance inventories. These values include excellent representation of a cedar swamp, red pine stand on the sand point, tombolo bar, and raised strandlines associated with glacial Lake Agassiz. Interim management efforts will be directed towards the protection of these resource values.

VIII CULTURAL RESOURCES

A reconnaissance archaeological survey of Sandpoint Island was conducted during 1979. Three archaeological sites were located on the Island, one of which should receive further investigation (Ddkg-3).

Guideline

A more detailed archaeological survey of site Ddkg-3 will be carried out prior to the preparation of the park management plan and subsequent park development.

IX CLIENT SERVICES

Information on the natural and cultural features of this park will be made available to the public in an attempt to foster an understanding and appreciation for the park.

X RESEARCH

More detailed earth and life science, cultural and recreational inventories will be required prior to the preparation of the park management plan.

XI MARKETING

A marketing strategy for this natural environment class provincial park will be addressed during the preparation of the park management plan.

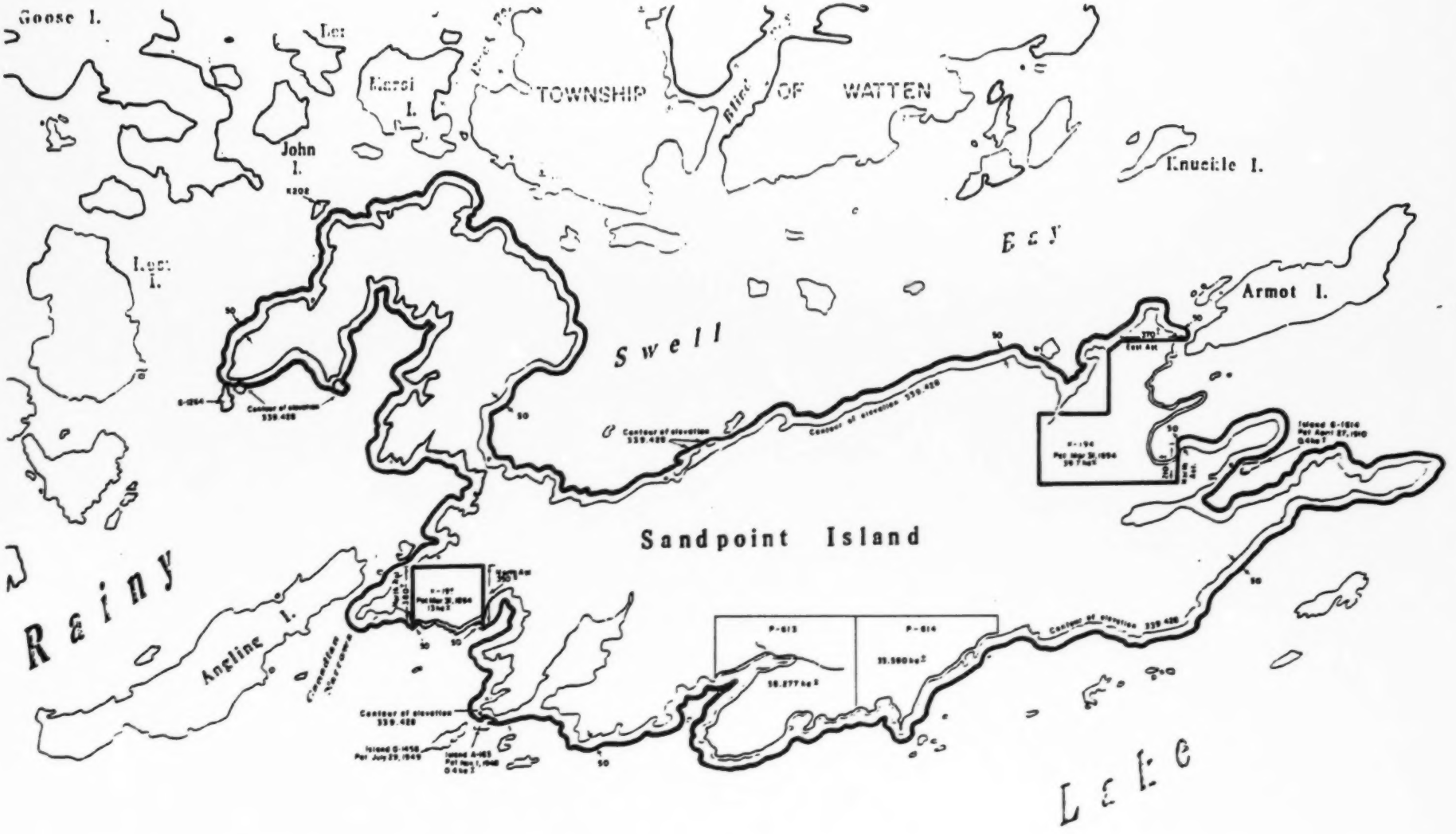
SOURCES/REFERENCES

KOR, P. Earth Science Inventory Checklist For Sandpoint Island Park Reserve, O.M.N.R., 1977.

NOBLE, T., Ontario Nature Reserves Program - Life Science Inventory Check-Sheet For Sandpoint Island-Cedar Swamp, O.M.N.R., 1977.

Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation, Archaeological Survey of Sandpoint And Pow Wow Grounds Provincial Park Reserves, 1979

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Fort Frances District Land Use Guidelines, 1983.



The park boundary is positioned 30 metres in perpendicular distance from the contour of elevation 339.428 along the shore of Sandpoint Island unless otherwise specified.

SANDPOINT ISLAND PROVINCIAL PARK

DISTRICT OF RAINY RIVER

12. SANDPOINT ISLAND

a. Area Description

Area 12 covers an area of about 888 hectares comprising Sandpoint Island in Rainy Lake. It lies within the Rainy Lake Crown Management Unit but has been excluded from the productive forest base for the purposes of forest management planning. About two-thirds of the island has high potential for metallic minerals while the balance has moderate potential. There are two patented mining claims. The island is presently withdrawn from staking. The area experiences moderate hunting pressure for deer and there is one registered trapping licence.

b. Land Use Intent

The area is recommended for park status. The recommended park would provide for the representation of small scale and special earth and life science features such as cedar swamps, tombola beaches and bedrock features. It also has the potential to provide day use and tent camping opportunities on a water accessible basis.

In consideration of existing land uses within Area 12, it is further recommended that most of these uses be permitted to continue. The exception to this would be commercial logging which is not recommended as a continuing use. An outline of those ongoing activities which are recommended for continuation is given in the Land Use Activity section, however it must be realized that further refinement of these recommendations may be required.

The Land Use Activity section also provides guidelines for how the Ministry will attempt to influence the use of private lands located within the recommended candidate. These guidelines could be refined as more information is gathered concerning the contribution of these lands towards meeting park objectives.

Until such time as the area is established as a park, it will be managed essentially as Crown land with isolated privately-owned parcels. Traditional uses of the area will be permitted to continue provided they do not jeopardize long term park objectives, or impact on known park values to the significant detriment of their value once the park is created.

c. Land Use Activity For Area No. 12—SANDPOINT ISLAND

Activity	Acceptable		Recommended Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction		x	
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing		x	
Commercial Fishing		x	
Cottaging		x	
Forestry		x	
Hunting	x		It is recommended that hunting activity be permitted to continue.
Mining	x		It is recommended that mineral exploration/ extraction be permitted.
Provincial Parks	x		Recommended for park status.
Roads		x	

Activity	Acceptable		Recommended Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Rural Residential		x	
Sport Fishing		x	
Tourism		x	
Trapping	x		It is recommended that existing trapping activity be permitted to continue.
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

ONTARIO NATURE RESERVES PROGRAM - LIFE SCIENCE INVENTORY CHECK-SHEET

NAME	MAP NAME	MAP NUMBER	UTM REF.
Sandpoint Island - Cedar Swamp	Fort Frances	52C/11	925873

COUNTY, DISTRICT or REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY: District of Rainy River

LAT.: 48 ° 38 'N | LONG.: 93 ° 06 'W | ALT. MIN. MAX.: 1125

LOCALITY: Rainy Lake

TOWNSHIP | LOTS | CONCESSIONS

AREA: 85 acres 35 ha

OWNERSHIP: Crown

ADMINISTRATION: Ministry of Natural Resources

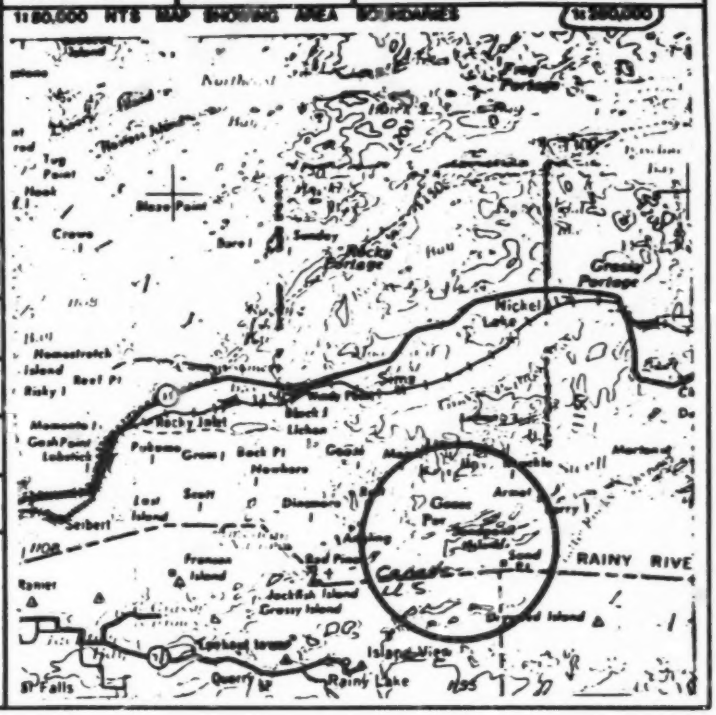
FOREST REGION AND DISTRICT: L.12-Rainy River | SITE REGION AND DISTRICT: 5S-1

MNR REGION AND DISTRICT: NWR-Fort Frances | CONSERVATION AUTHORITY:

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS — BASE MAP:

YEAR	ROLL	FLIGHT LINE	NUMBERS
1965	41	4826	199-200

1:50,000 NTS MAP SHOWING AREA BOUNDARIES



PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL FEATURES

Sandpoint Island consists of gently to moderately broken terrain with bare to thinly mantled bedrock knolls and intervening lowland swamps. The hot, dry knobby outcrop terrain is covered with scattered jack pine (Pinus banksiana) and red pine (Pinus resinosa). These species are generally found in a clumped pattern. Aspen (Populus tremuloides) are found occupying bedrock depressions where some mineral soil and humus material has collected. Small sand beaches which occur at various locations along the shoreline generally support coniferous stands of jack pine and/or red pine. One of these sand areas, a sand point on the southern portion of the island, from which the island derives its name, supports an excellent stand of red pine. The aesthetics of this site have made it a popular camping area for boaters on Rainy Lake. Wetland features are well represented on the island in shoreline marshes in the bays and lowland swamps in the interior of the island. One of these lowland swamps is quite extensive and is dominated by eastern white cedar (Thuja occidentalis). This swamp association is at its northern limit in this forest section (Rowe, 1972) although isolated populations of this species can be found further to the northwest. Although a very superficial visit was made to this wetland feature, indeed the whole island, this unit would appear to have potential as a candidate Nature Reserve.

DATA SHEETS ATTACHED

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION	X	SUMMARY SPECIES LISTS	
VEGETATION SUMMARY	X	PHYSICAL FEATURES MAP	
EVALUATION SHEET	X	VEGETATION MAP	
COMMUNITY DESCRS.		BIBLIOGRAPHY	
COMMUNITY COMP. LISTS		PHOTOGRAPHS	

MAJOR INFORMATION SOURCES

EVALUATION AND PRIORITIES

The above unit has potential to be a candidate in the Nature Reserves programme.

DATE COMPILED	COMPILER
1977.12.01	T. Noble

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

52C/11 | 925873

BEDROCK

The bedrock of the island consists of a complex mixture of metasedimentary rocks and mafic to felsic volcanic and intrusive rocks.

PHYSIOGRAPHY

Sandpoint Island consists of lowlying, moderately to gently broken Precambrian terrain typical of the area. Large areas of bare to thinly mantled bedrock knolls are interspersed with wet swampy areas of varying sizes.

SOILS

Surficial deposits are minimal, consisting of a thin, discontinuous mantle of stony sand till alternating with bare bedrock knolls. The shallowness of this material prevents a true profile from developing. Shallow to deep deposits of fine to medium grained, immature beach sands are found at several locations along the shoreline. Wet organic soils are developing in the lowland depressions between the rock ridges especially in the cedar swamp.

GROUNDWATER

Lowland areas are generally saturated or exhibit open water conditions as they act as catchment basins for surface runoff from the bedrock ridges. The cedar swamp is one such area and it exhibits wet to very wet conditions with seasonal shallow pools in some places.

SURFACE WATER

Some of the lowland areas which act as catchment basins reveal some ponding probably the result of blocked drainage exits by beaver.

SHORES

CLIMATE

The local climate on the island varies from warmer than normal on bedrock knolls and southfacing slopes to normal and colder than normal on wet lowland sites.

DISTURBANCE HISTORY

The sand point along the south shore apparently receives a great deal of use by boating campers. The island is also used for deer hunting. Some fire scarred stumps were noted.

VEGETATION SUMMARY

52C/11 | 925873

NUMBER	ASSOCIATION OR COMPLEX	AREA (ha)	SOIL TEXTURE	MOISTURE REGIME	MICRO-CLIMATE	SOIL pH	DATA SHEET
1	White cedar-balsam fir-white birch swamp forest		organic	wet	N-C		

EVALUATION

52C/11 | 925873

OUTSTANDING ASSOCIATIONS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES OR FEATURES

1. This swamp provides ideal habitat for white-tailed deer.
2. Significnat stand of red pine on sand point
3. Shoreline marshes associated with bays

POTENTIAL DISTURBANCES AND THREATS

Continued use by boating and hunting recreationists will likely occur. The activities have little affect on the cedar swamp but over use of the sand point may have some effect on the red pine stand found here.

BRIEF SUMMARY

The island provides an excellent example of a cedar swamp. The surrounding rolling bedrock ridge topography with its scattered coniferous tree cover, and the cat-tail and phragmites shoreline marshes found in the islands bays not only act as a buffer but provide variety as well.

RECOMMENDATIONS

NAME	MAP NAME	MAP NUMBER	UTM REFERENCE
Sandpoint Island Park Reserve	Fort Frances	52C/11	920870

COUNTY	LAT.	LONG.	ALT. MIN.	ALT. MAX.
	48° 39'	93° 07'	357 m (1107')	387 m (1200')

TOWNSHIP

LOT CONCESSION

About 23 km E. of Fort Frances, lying on the International Boundary S. of Hwy 11; access by boat on Rainy Lake.

AREA

2147 acres 870 ha.

OWNERSHIP

Crown

ADMINISTRATION

MNR REGION & DISTRICT	CONSERVATION AUTH.
NWR-Fort Frances	

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS — BASEMAPS

YEAR	ROLL	FLIGHT LINE	NUMBERS
1965	41	4826	196-201
	41	4827	221-226

1:50,000 NTS MAP SHOWING AREA BOUNDARIES

EARTH SCIENCE FEATURES

- complex geology of metasedimentary rocks and mafic to felsic volcanic and intrusive rocks, Wabigoon Subprovince, Precambrian Shield
- thin discontinuous veneer of stony sand till, North Bay Interstadial
- thick deposit of outwash (?) sand with prominant wave-cut bluffs (2 m high) above present lake level

SENSITIVITY

- the sand areas are sensitive to overuse through denudation, compaction, and resultant wind/water erosion

SIGNIFICANCE

- possibly high significance in representation of late glacial Lake Agassiz deposits

MAJOR REFERENCES

DATE COMPILED	COMPILER
24 October 1977	P. Kor

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Division of Parks, Parks Planning Branch, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1W3

Physical Features: Field work completed 1977.10.04.

Sandpoint Island consists of lowlying, moderately to gently broken Precambrian terrain typical of the area. Large areas of bare to thinly mantled bedrock knolls are interspersed with large wet swamplands, either perpetually or seasonally waterlogged. The bedrock consists of a complex mixture of metasedimentary rocks and mafic to felsic volcanic and intrusive rocks (ODM Map 2278) lying within the Wabigoon Subprovince of the Superior Province. Surficial deposits are minimal, consisting of a thin, discontinuous mantle of stony sand till deposited during the North Bay Interstadial about 12,000 B.P. Exceptions to this occur at several places along the shoreline, where shallow to deep deposits of fine to medium-grained, yellow, immature sand form beaches and sandy backshore areas.

The outstanding feature of the island is a thick deposit of sand joining several glacially smoothed outcrop knolls to the main portion of the south-central area of the island. The island's name, Sandpoint, is appropriate for this reason. Both sides of the wide spit have been wave-washed in former times to form raised beaches, though the eastern side is more prominantly gravel than sand. A 2 m high bank of sand rises gently above the initial beach on the west side of the tombolo bar. Smooth beach ridges, at least 2 of which are about ½ m high, occur on the sandy plain behind the present beaches. The sand point is notable for a stand of red pine. It is in obvious use as a prime camping area for people using Rainy Lake.

Another notable sand area occurs between two bedrock knolls separating the northern peninsula of Sandpoint Island from the southern, main portion of the island. A flat, narrow shelf of sand stretches between the knolls, allowing for portaging (Goose Portage, ODM Map 2278) and minimal camping. Several red pine are notable on this site.

Other minor beaches occur in some of the small bays along the lakeshore of the island.

It is not readily known where the sand originated. It is unlikely that the large volume of sand on Sandpoint is merely reworked till which overlay the bedrock. More likely it is a remnant of lacustrine deposition in glacial Lake Agassiz or its waning stages. This seems possible considering the relatively high occurrence of the beach ridges above lake level.

Significance:

The bedrock of Sandpoint Island may contribute minor features to the earth science protection objective. Similar but less significant representation of this terrain occurs elsewhere in the parks system, notably at Pipestone Peninsula Park Reserve. Due to this representational value, Sandpoint Island Park Reserve is considered to be significant.

The large tombolo bar is a rare example of this type of feature in the region due to a general lack of source material in concentrated amounts. The raised beach ridges on the tombolo and probable association with some phases of glacial Lake Agassiz render the deposit significant, as features related to this lake are not common in Ontario.

Recommendations:

The Sandpoint area, in particular, is showing signs of wear through overuse by campers. Some regulation of this area should be attempted to minimize impact, though this is necessarily difficult due to its isolation. Natural Environment zoning of the tombolo should be considered in future plans for the island.

Additional Information:

Hart and Davis (1969) present age-dating on the rocks of the Rainy Lake area, notably the two following sample locations on Sandpoint Island:

Sample 41, east-central portion of northern peninsula:

Keewatin Volcanics (Table 1, p.602):

Pb206/U238	1960 m.y.
Pb207/U235	2300 m.y.
Pb207/Pb206	2630 m.y.

Sample 20, western point of main portion of island:

Couchiching sediments (Table 1, p.602):

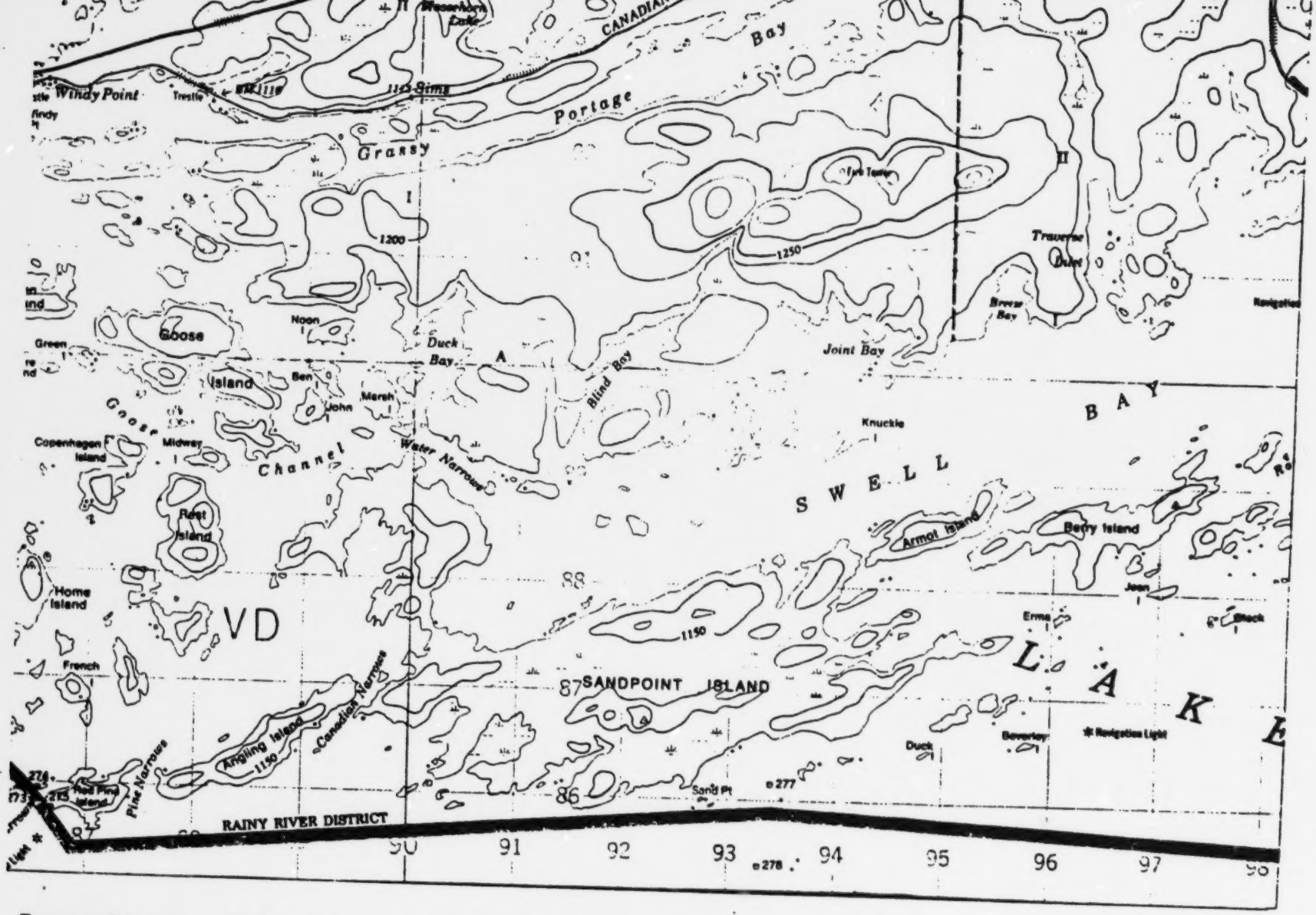
Pb206/U238	2330 m.y.
Pb207/U235	2530 m.y.
Pb207/Pb206	2700 m.y.
Pb208/Th238	2500 m.y.

Overall, for the Rainy River area, the following Isochron ages were obtained (from Table 2, p.606):

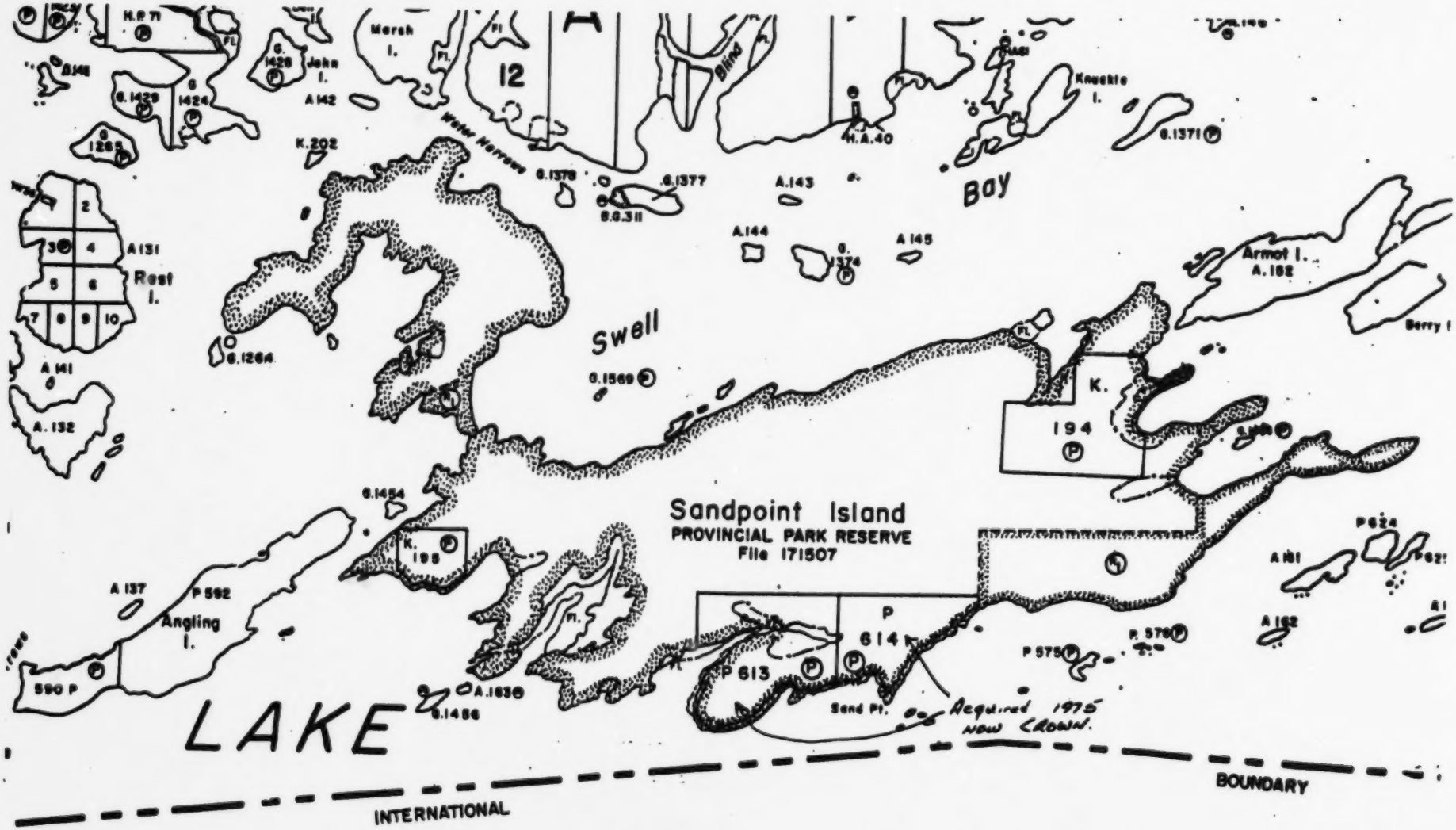
Keewatin	2770 $\pm$ 26 m.y.
Couchiching	2630 $\pm$ 31 m.y.

References:

Hart, S.R. and Davis, G.L., 1969. Zircor U-Pb and Whole-Rock Rb-Sr Ages and Early Crustal Development near Rainy Lake, Ontario. Geol. Soc. Am., Bull., V.80. p.595-616.

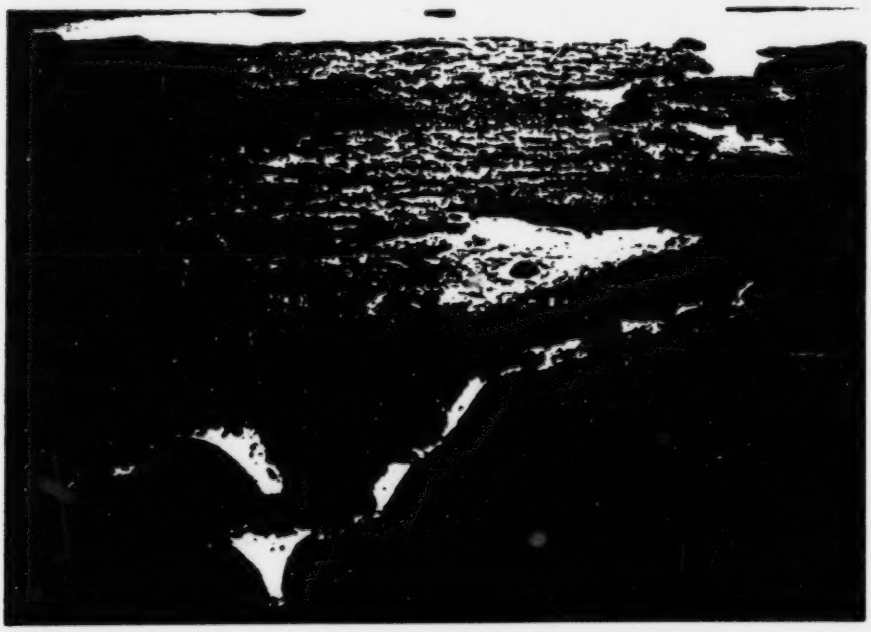


Topographic map, showing location of Sandpoint Island (scale 1:50,000).



M-series map showing boundaries of Sandpoint Island Park Reserve.

Sand Point on Sandpoint Island, showing wave-washed bluff and flat backshore. UTM 927861.



Aerial photo of Sandpoint Island, showing the sand and cedar swamp in the backshore.